CAPTAIN AMYAS PRESTON'S VOYAGE

Captain Amyas Preston that set forth in the *Ascension* six months since is returned, being arrived in safety at Milford Haven in Wales On his outward passage he surprised the Isle of Porto Santo to the northward of Madeira which is inhabited by old soldiers of the Kings of Portugal Here after some skirmishes, our men possessed themselves of the town, though the inhabitants had conveyed their wives and children and the rest of their goods into a high hill Nor would Captain Preston allow them to redeem their town, because of their cruelty and treachery offered beforetime to some of ours, but caused the town and villages to be utterly burned

Thence having joined with Captain Somers and his ship the *Gift* and three other ships they sailed westward to the Island of Dominica and from there to Margarita where the Indians fish for pearls In the end of May they took the city of S lago de Leon, a very strong place, surrounded by high mountains, which they reached by a path used by the Indians And here they had conference with the Spaniards for the ransoming of the town, Captain Preston demanding 30,000 ducats but the Spaniard refusing more than 4000, so the town was set on fire and consumed

In July, off Cape St Anthony, they met with Sir Walter Ralegh returning from his discovery of Guiana, with his fleet of three sliips, but lost them in the night

i$tb September A GREAT FIRE AT WOBURN

Last Saturday (i3th) there was a great fire at Woburn in the County of Bedford, whereby houses and buildings to the number of one hundred and thirty are consumed, as well as barns,

stables and the rest, with the goods and provisions therein, besides what was earned out into the streets and there purloined and embezzled. This fire started in a poor cottage at the further end of the town towards Brookhill where dwelt a single old woman, slow in speech, deaf in hearing, and very dull of understanding She had shifted her bed straw and put new therein, laying the old in the chimney, supposing that there had been no fire therein, and afterwards going abroad upon her business. In the meanwhile the cinders in the chimney took